

RM-10867, the American Radio Relay League's proposal for restructuring amateur radio licensing, should be adopted and made FCC policy. Of the several proposals for restructuring, it is my belief that this one is the best, most workable and most fair to existing and future amateur radio licensees.

My only disagreement with the ARRL proposal: I urge you to eliminate the Morse code requirement entirely rather than requiring it for extra-class licensees.

Morse code remains useful for amateur operators, and many either use it or are, like me, working on improving their skills enough so that they can use it.

But Morse code is very much a minority interest among amateur operators. Whatever it's time-honored history, it is relevant today only to the relatively few who enjoy using it. It may have been what radio was all about, once upon a time, but today it is but one of more than a dozen modes used by amateur operators. Requiring it as a condition for licensing is anachronistic and serves only to discourage many people from becoming licensed. Prospective licensees are not required to demonstrate any other radio communications mode, only this one. That in itself is ridiculous. Plus which, being able to pass a five words per minute test does not mean one is qualified to use Morse code on the air. Far from it. Airline flight attendants once had to be licensed nurses, and some states required you to be a mechanic to obtain a driver's license. These were good ideas, many years ago, and so was requiring radio operators to know Morse code. These no longer are good ideas.

I hold a general amateur radio license, callsign WH7EM, and intend to become fluent enough in Morse code to use it on the air.

Thank you very much

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